

★ The Facts ★

More than 490,000 adults over 18 in Arkansas do not have a high school diploma.*

More than 170,000 have less than an eighth-grade education.*

And many more do not have the basic educational skills needed to be successful in the workplace.

Arkansas adult education centers employ certified teachers who are working to change these statistics. Adults are helped to improve basic academic skills so they can

- ★ get and keep a job;
- ★ enter postsecondary education and training programs;
- ★ help their children in school;
- ★ learn English as a second language; and
- ★ earn an Arkansas high school diploma through the GED testing program.

Many adults may have trouble learning because of a visual or learning problem. Adult education centers screen for vision problems and learning disabilities.

Adult education programs work with business and industry to provide basic academic and workforce skills. New equipment and technology require employees to have a stronger mastery of these skills.

** Source: 2000 Census*



★ Our Philosophy ★

All adults can learn.

All adults deserve a second chance to earn a high school diploma.

All adults deserve to receive an education that enhances their ability to make positive changes in their lives.

All adults deserve the opportunity to obtain the life skills needed to become self-sufficient, actively participating members of society.

★ <http://dwe.arkansas.gov> ★

★ Our Programs ★

During the 2003-2004 school year:

★ Adult education centers and literacy councils provided **Adult Basic Education** services to more than 57,000 adults.

★ More than 6,300 adults passed the **General Educational Development (GED)** tests in 2003. The Arkansas pass rate was 83 percent.

★ **English as a Second Language (ESL)** programs enrolled more than 5,000 non-English-speaking adults.

★ **Workforce Alliance for Growth in the Economy (WAGE)** programs provided customized basic skills training to more than 800 adults.

★ **The Arkansas Adult Learning Resource Center** provided professional development training for more than 400 adult educators.

★ Our Partners ★

Arkansas Literacy Councils, Inc., is a nonprofit organization that serves as a liaison between local volunteer literacy councils and Adult Education, as well as other state and federal agencies.

Adult Education also partners with the **Arkansas Workforce Investment Board**, **Department of Human Services**, **Department of Health**, public school districts, and postsecondary institutions.

★ The Reality ★

Imagine living in this information age and technology-driven world without the ability to read, do simple math, speak English, or use a computer. This is a reality for many adult Arkansans.

It's a reality handed down from one generation to another. Children whose parents do not have basic educational skills often end up without those skills as adults.

The Adult Education Section of the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education (DWE), through its local adult education centers and its partnerships with Arkansas literacy councils, offers programs statewide that will help adults master these basic educational skills.

Adult Education classes are FREE, offered at flexible times, and tailored to meet the needs of each individual student.

Adult education instructors are available in every county to help adult students achieve success—in the classroom and the workplace.

**It's not a shame
to need better reading,
writing, and math skills.**

**It's a shame
when nothing
is done about it.**

★ Our Mission ★

The mission of the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education is to provide leadership and contribute resources to serve the diverse and changing career and educational needs of the youth and adults of Arkansas.

For more information about [FREE](#) adult education classes, contact your nearest adult education center or call

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Local Program Information

"No Arkansan left behind"



WE ARKANSAS
Department of
WORKFORCE
EDUCATION

